

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please delete the heading on page 1 as follows:

~~DESCRIPTION~~

Please amend the paragraph at page 5, lines 7-17, as follows:

The reference describes ~~with respect to the~~ an effect derived from the cusp-like rounded protruding portion. As the cusp-like protruding portion has a function in forcing the horseshoe vortexes 8a and 8b away from the front edges 7a and 7b of the blade bodies 1a and 1b, the strength of the passage vortexes 9a and 9b may be diminished, thus reducing the blade cascade loss. However, it also reports that the aforementioned effect may be obtained on the assumption that an edge line (parting line) of the rounded cusp-like protruding portion is required to coincide with a stagnation point (at which the working fluid collides against the front edges of the blade body) of the working fluid.

Please cancel the original Abstract at page 33, prenumbered lines 1-12 in its entirety and insert therefor the following replacement Abstract on a separate sheet as follows: